

# The Advocate

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PEOPLE'S PARTY OF KANSAS.

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The Last Annual Meeting at Memphis, Tennessee.

The supreme council of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union met at Memphis, Tennessee, on Tuesday, November 15. The business transacted was simply the regular routine business of the annual session. There were a few things, of course, not down on the program, to which reference is made elsewhere. We had made arrangements with Mrs. Diggs to furnish a complete report of the proceedings, but up to the hour of going to press the report had not arrived. The new officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows:

President, H. L. Loucks, of South Dakota; Vice President, Marion Butler, of North Carolina; Secretary-Treasurer, L. K. Taylor of Tennessee. The following were elected on the executive board: L. Leonard, Missouri; Mann Page, Virginia; I. E. Dean, New York; H. C. Demming, of Pennsylvania.

The committee on demands submitted its report, which it will be observed is a reiteration of the demands adopted by the Omaha convention. The report of the committee was adopted and is as follows:

Finance—We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; and that without the use of banking corporations a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent. be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

(a)—We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the legal rates of 16 to 1.

(b)—We demand that the amount of circulating medium be increased to at least \$50 per capita, exclusive of legal reserves.

(c)—We demand a graduated income tax.

(d)—That our national legislation shall be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another.

(e)—We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand all national and state revenue shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

(f)—We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Land—The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Transportation—Transportation being

a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

(g)—The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity, for the transmission of intelligence, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

C. H. ELLINGTON,  
C. B. MATTHEWS,  
J. R. MAXWELL,  
MARION BUTLER,  
W. S. HANNA,  
R. A. SOUTHWORTH.

## President Louck's Message.

Since assembling one year ago our organization has met with an irreparable loss. Our beloved president has gone to receive his reward of well done, good and faithful servant. We will miss his warm fraternal greeting, his encouraging words, his earnest "God bless you," his wise, conservative counsel, and at no time in our history did we need it more than now. The death of Brother L. L. Polk at a critical time in our history was not only a great loss to our order and the hosts of organized labor of the nation; it was a national loss. His work will live long and bear fruit as it is doing daily. We will best comply with his wishes by pressing forward to victory the cause he loved better than life, and for which he was willing to sacrifice the comforts of home, the prospect of wealth, aye, even life itself in his devotion to our demands. We cannot doubt that his spirit will be with us during this session. May each and every one present be imbued with his zeal, devotion and self-sacrificing spirit and all will be well. As a national organization we have been passing through a crucial test, a winnowing process, a separation of the wheat from the chaff and foul seeds that grew up with the order. The result will be a reduction in numbers, but a great improvement in quality.

In its incipency in the various organizations now united in the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union we realized that there was something wrong. We began our work by groping in the dark, as it were, our attention being directed chiefly to relief through co-operative efforts in buying and selling, with the social, educational and political features as secondary considerations. Combined capital and experience against us has made it difficult to make much progress in that direction. Many were induced to join for selfish financial benefits, who would not have joined for other reasons, and thus they became interested in the great educational work which has caused the present upheaval in the nation. We have learned, and the census reports of 1890 affirm the proposition, that the trouble is not with the production of wealth, but with its unjust distribution through special privileges conferred on

and traitors wherever they may be found.

THE ALLIANCE DEMANDS.

Our demands having been adopted and affirmed so unanimously, and been so thoroughly discussed before the public, I do not deem it necessary at this time to enter into any discussion on their merits. The only change I would suggest would be the slight ones necessary to make them conform to the demands adopted by the great industrial conference, held at St. Louis last February, in which your representatives took an active official part, and to the support of which we, as a body, were pledged.

## THE POLITICAL PROBLEM.

The earnest worker's attention was directed to its solution. The result was the formulation and adoption of our demands, each one of which required a change of laws; in fact a reversal of political action. To that extent we became a political organization, and our minds were trained to look for relief through political action at the ballot box rather than through commercial co-operation.

We should be proud of the fact that through it all we have been so broad and patriotic as to ask for no special privileges for us as a class. We have stood by the grand doctrine of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

When our demands were first presented, relief must come through political action to repeal the special privileges conferred on the favored classes, we were confronted with two enemies—the one, those who were to be deprived of their special privileges, and who, controlling unlimited wealth, through which they controlled the industries of the nation, the press and the political machinery of both political parties, were loth to lose their so-called vested rights. They resorted to abuse, ridicule, misrepresentation and oppression to destroy organized labor—they wield a tremendous power.

On the other hand many joined our ranks from selfish reasons, hoping to use the political upheaval to their own personal advantage. The enemy from within will prove more dangerous than those from without. Some were scared off by the former; many were side-tracked by the latter in their efforts to use the organization for their own personal political advantage, or prostitute it to political parties with which they were affiliated. These have proven our worst enemies. It is fortunate that there has been an early opportunity for thoroughly testing our devotion to principle. All honor to those who have stood the test and remained faithful.

If any have proven unfaithful, they are no longer worthy of confidence, and should be removed from our council. The result in the end will be beneficial to the order and the cause. It is well for us that those placed in representative positions are watched with a jealous eye by the masses. At times they may suffer from unjust suspicion, but the true man need have no fear of the final result.

Our organization will stand by those proven true to their trust as surely as they will repudiate the unfaithful. In all cases it will be better to give the order the benefit of the doubt where doubt exists, and purge our ranks of the tricksters

and traitors wherever they may be found.

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How to secure their enactment into law seems to be a question on which there is a difference of opinion, and an official declaration by this body might be an aid. My own judgment is very emphatic on the following points:

1. We need not expect to secure their enactment into law until we demand them.

2. Our demands will not be respected until political parties are convinced that we are in earnest.

3. Political parties will judge our earnestness by our votes rather than our words. If we can be side-tracked on minor issues, they will smile at our requests; if we can be induced to postpone action by appealing to sectional hatred, they will but despise us. If we continue as citizens to support political parties that not only ignore our demands, but openly fight them, they will treat our demands and ourselves with the contempt we deserve. The time has arrived when we must decide between our principles and our partisanship. Our great educational work will count for naught if, after we have learned the truth, we fail to practice it, and in no way can we so utterly fail in living and acting the truth as in knowing it and failing to record it at the ballot box.

Truth is the epitome of all that the great Creator of the universe demands of man. You may sum up your responsibility to your fellow man and your duty to God in the simple word "truth." Be true to yourself, true to your family, true to this order, true to your country, and true to your God. Speak the truth, live the truth, and vote the truth. I have no sympathy whatever with the idea of pushing our educational work up to the point of conviction, laboring for years to teach our fellow citizens certain true economic principles, and then the last week of the campaign deserting our principles and jumping for the band wagon. That may be termed "practical politics," but it can have no permanent abiding place in a great reform movement, based on the eternal rock of truth as a foundation. The idea is thoroughly abhorrent to every true Alliance man. The ballot

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